



PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | | |
|------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Applicants | : | Bruno BORSOI et al. |) | Office of Initial Patent Examination |
| Appln. No. | : | 09/973,035 |) | Customer Service Center |
| Filed | : | October 10, 2001 |) | |
| For | : | INNER TIGHTENING MECHANISM FOR FOOTWEAR |) | |

REPLY TO NOTICE OF INCOMPLETE REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in reply to the Notice of Incomplete Reply (Nonprovisional), dated January 29, 2002, alleging that Applicants' previous reply to the Notice to File Missing Parts, mailed on November 19, 2001, did not include the following item: "The Claim(s) commencing on a separate sheet."

The Notice of Incomplete Reply is erroneous; the claims were in fact filed, as part of the translation of the previously filed French language specification, on December 20, 2001. Therefore, Applicants request that the Notice of Incomplete Reply be rescinded and that an acknowledgement be made that the instant application is complete.

Together with the filing of the complete accurate translation of the French language specification, Applicants had filed a preliminary amendment, which included a substitute specification (i.e., a "clean" version and a "marked-up" version, according to USPTO regulations. Applicants surmise that the substitute specification, which omits claims, might have been inadvertently considered by the USPTO to constitute the aforementioned translation.

RECEIVED
APR 25 2002
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

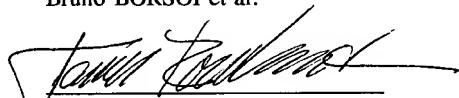
In spite of the fact that Applicants have filed a complete, accurate translation, including claims commencing on a separate sheet (37 CFR 1.75(c)), Applicants herewith have attached another English language translation of the previously filed French text, newly verified that the translation is a literal translation.

No fee is believed to be necessary at this time, inasmuch as Applicants' previous response to the Notice to File Missing Parts was complete, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of Applicants' reply to the Notice as timely and/or complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although no extension of time is believed to be necessary at this time, again inasmuch as Applicants' previous response to the Notice to File Missing Parts was complete, if it were to be found that an extension of time were necessary to render Applicants' reply to the Notice as timely and/or complete, Applicants request an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) in the necessary increment(s) of month(s) that would render Applicants' reply timely and/or complete and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee under 37 CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruno BORSOI et al.



James L. Rowland
Reg. No. 32,674

February 19, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191

(703) 716-1191 (telephone)
(703) 716-1180 (fax)



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NUMBER | FILING/RECEIPT DATE | FIRST NAMED APPLICANT | ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 09/973,035 | 10/10/2001 | Bruno Borsoi | P21548 |

7055
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

CONFIRMATION NO. 5050

FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000007385446

Date Mailed: 01/29/2002

RECEIVED
3100 MAIL ROOM
APR 25 2002

NOTICE OF INCOMPLETE REPLY (NONPROVISIONAL)

Filing Date Granted

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has received your reply on 12/20/2001 to the Notice to File Missing Parts (Notice) mailed 11/19/2001 and it has been entered into the nonprovisional application. The reply, however, does not include the following items required in the Notice.

The period of reply remains as set forth in the Notice. You may, however, obtain EXTENSIONS OF TIME under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a) accompanied by the appropriate fee (37 CFR 1.17(a)).

A complete reply must be timely filed to prevent ABANDONMENT of the above-identified application.

The application is informal since it does not comply with the regulations for the reason(s) indicated below.

The required item(s) identified below must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment:

- The Claim(s) commencing on a separate sheet (37 CFR 1.75(h)).

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*

M. Lenz

Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

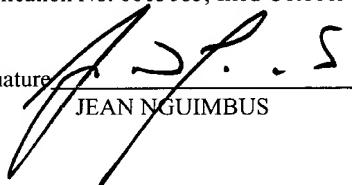
VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I, JEAN NGUIMBUS

of 301 N. Beauregard St. Unit 1220
Alexandria, VA 22312
U.S.A.

declare that I am well acquainted with both the French and English languages, and that the attached is a literal translation, to the best of my knowledge and ability, of the French language Patent Application No. 0013185, filed October 10, 2000.

Signature



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Nguibus".

JEAN NGUIMBUS

Date

February 4, 2002